

REMARKS

The Office action acknowledges Rogers (US 5,397,991) does not describe or suggest determining at least one current value of a generator mechanical power input upon energization of an electrical consumer in a motor vehicle. However, the Office action asserts, determining such a current value was obvious, because “Rogers sets forth the increasing and decreasing of the input current to the alternator[, and, therefore,] the current must be monitored (i.e. determined) to know if the current has been, in fact, increased or decreased.”

Applicants respectfully submit, determining the current to an alternator is not the same as determining the fuel consumption of an electrical consumer. Claim 1 has been amended to make clear that it requires determining the fuel consumption of an electrical consumer in a motor vehicle with an internal combustion engine. This requirement was previously in the preamble of claim 1. Rogers does not obviate determining the fuel consumption of an electrical consumer. The Office action makes no allegation to the contrary.

The preamble has been removed from claims 4 and 6 to make clear these claims do not require determining the fuel consumption of an electrical consumer. Claim 7 has been broadened by rewriting the list of input quantities as a Markush group. New claim 11 finds support throughout the specification, for example, in the first paragraph on page 1 of the specification. New claims 12 and 13 find support throughout the specification, for example, in the first full paragraph on page 9 of the specification. New claims 14, 15, and 16 represent the subject matter of claims 4, 6, and 7, which originally depended from claim 1, to make clear the scope of claim 1 still encompasses this subject matter.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees filed, asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account 14-1437. Please credit any excess fees to such account.

NOVAK DRUCE & QUIGG, LLP
1300 Eye St. N.W.
Suite 1000 West
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 659-0100
Facsimile: (202) 659-0105

Date: March 18, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael P. Byrne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter N. Lalos
Registration No. 19,789
Michael P. Byrne
Registration No. 54,015

Attorneys for Applicants